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VIEWPOINT

TV's Campaign Role Needs Scrutiny

"It is time for the Congress to tell the television networks they are not a fourth branch of government."

That's how North Carolina's Second District Rep. I. T. (Tim) Valentine described his view of the networks' election night projections.

On Nov. 6, the networks projected the winner in the presidential race before the polls closed in western states—and at least one of them projected the winner in the Hunt-Helms Senate race while some North Carolina polls were still open.

The practice, which relies on sophisticated exit surveys, deters voters from going to the polls and voting, according to critics.

Valentine said that since the networks have chosen to ignore a congressional resolution calling for voluntary restraint, he will join other congressmen in pushing legislation that would prohibit the networks from projecting winners before polls are closed.

Valentine, who won a new term in the Nov. 6 election, said, "We must respect the First Amendment rights of the news media. But the Constitution cannot be used as an excuse for antidemocratic behavior."

He said the networks are motivated by "creating sensational news to attract the attention of lucrative advertisers."

Although he has not been affected by the networks' early projections and does not serve on a committee with jurisdiction over the issue, he said he's been concerned about it for some time.

"One doesn't have to be directly affected to object to their sheer arrogance," he said.

Congressional examination of this practice would be quite appropriate, but another element of television's role in the political process is also deserving of the lawmakers' scrutiny.

It relates to political advertising, which has become one of the most lucrative sources of revenue for TV stations in states where candidates spend millions of dollars on spot campaigns for congressional and gubernatorial races.

Many of these spots "plumb new depths of distortion and misrepresentation" that "would shame the publishers of supermarket scandal sheets," says John O' Toole, chairman of the board of Foote, Cone & Belding Communications, Inc., an advertising agency.

In a recent *Newsweek* essay, O'Toole argues that this sort of candidate advertising "trivializes" the electoral process by equating a candidate and a public office with an antiperspirant and an armpit.

Because networks and stations are required by law to accept any political spot presented to them—even if they could prove that the contents misrepresents the facts—the political ads are not subject to the industry's usual screening procedures to eliminate ads with false claims.

"No one really has jurisdiction over political spots," says O'Toole. "Media consultants thus enjoy a kind of license lie."

His remedy for all this is simple: "Stop selling spots to political candidates." Instead, he says, the candidates in important national, state and local races should be alloted free air time to present their positions on key issues, perhaps in the form of a series of prime-time segments.

This approach is used effectively in England, he points out, where the air time is allocated to the parties on the basis of party registration.

By eliminating the political spot, he says, "we could and we would restore some dignity to our electoral process."

After North Carolina's 1984 campaign—with its heavy quotient of negative political ads—it's likely that most Tar Heels, regardless of party ties, would welcome any effort that might bring a bit of dignity to future campaigns.

* * * *

We commend these two proposals to members of the new Congress that convenes in January, when the outrages of the recent campaign will remain fresh in the nation's collective memory.

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Beginning Jan. 1, 1985

New Electric Bill Wrinkle: Sales Tax

Beginning Jan. 1, 1985, North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations will add a new wrinkle to the bills they send to their consumer-members: a calculation for 3 percent in state sales tax, which can be deducted from federal income taxes.

It'll mark the first time that state sales tax has been applied to the sales of electric, gas and intrastate telephone service.

The tax was imposed by the 1984 General Assembly in legislation which also reduced the gross receipts tax that has been imposed on these services for years.

"The legislature's intent here was not to add a new tax but to carve the sales tax out of the 6 percent gross receipts tax that consumers were already paying—to provide the tax deduction," said Tom Bolch, general counsel for the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

However, the new law set the reduced gross receipts tax at 3.22 percent and the sales tax at 3 percent, he said. Local sales taxes will not apply.

A State Department of Revenue official explained that the gross receipts tax couldn't be dropped to an even 3 percent without reducing the level of revenue it would produce.

"With the sales tax being applied to consumers bills, a bill of $100 would include $3 in sales tax, which isn't subject to gross receipts tax," he said.

"That means the gross receipts tax would be applied to only $96 of that bill, yielding $2.88. So, the two taxes together would produce revenues of only $5.88, rather than the $6 that would have been collected under the old gross receipts tax."

As a result, the new gross receipts tax had to be set at 3.22 percent to assure that the level of state revenues remain constant after the sales tax is applied.

Bolch pointed out that the law calls for the new tax to apply to services "on and after Jan. 1, 1985."

That'll require that the state's EMCs and other utilities must give special treatment to the initial 1985 bills when they cover service provided prior to Jan. 1.

"The co-ops will be handling these bills in various ways to separate the service that qualifies for the sales tax, using either a percentage or kilowatt hours."

Bolch said the new tax regulations do not require that the utilities provide consumers with a year-end report on the total sales taxes they've paid, although some of them may do so as a convenience.

"Since this is a completely new arrangement, consumers ought to save their bills to be sure they can document these sales taxes when they're filing federal tax forms in 1986."

The Internal Revenue Service may reflect this change in its tables for allowable sales tax deductions, but that isn't assured, Bolch said.

If that's not the case, the sales tax on electricity and natural gas can be added just as taxpayers now add the tax on large purchases such as autos.

"Of course, many taxpayers regularly disregard the sales tax tables anyway and deduct all sales taxes for which they have proof of payment."

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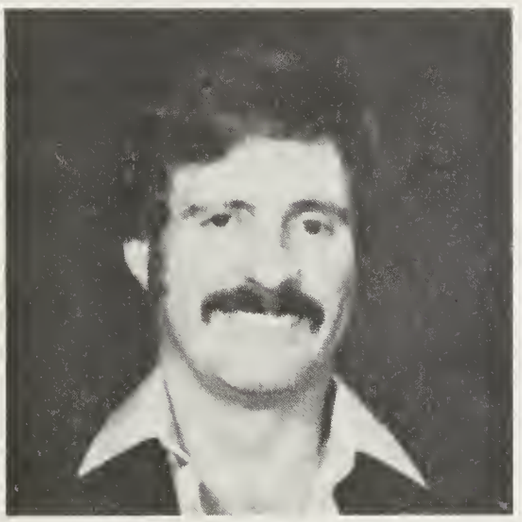

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Dr. Cook Named To NCSU Research Post

Dr. Robert E. Cook, head of the Department of Poultry Science at North Carolina State University since 1969, has been promoted to a research administrator.

He will spend three-fourths of his time as an assistant director of NCSU's Agricultural Research Service and one fourth of his time as an administrator with the Cooperative States Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The change will be effective as soon as a new department head can be found.

The department awards about 25% of the B.S. degrees in poultry science in the country. It is also a national leader in research related to reproductive physiology, mycotoxins and nutrition.

Poultry is about a $1 billion annual business in North Carolina. The state is No. 1 in turkeys, No. 1 or 2 in broiler breeders (hatching eggs), No. 4 in boilers and No. 5 in commercial eggs.

The Agricultural Research Service is one of three divisions of NCSU's School of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Among other things, Cook will be responsible for research programs related to the state's animal agriculture, according to Director Durward F. Bateman.

14 EMC Directors Get New Terms

A total of 14 incumbent directors have been re-elected to the boards of four North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations during recent co-op Annual Meetings:

- **Brunswick EMC**, Shallotte—Re-elected were Moses C. Herring of Rt. 3, Supply; Emery Smith of Rt. 1, Nakina and Jake Godwin of Rt. 1, Chadbourn.
- **Pitt and Green EMC**, Farmville—Re-elected were Horace Moore of Snow Hill; Lloyd Gay of Rt. 1, Fountain and Anna Belle Morris of Rt. 4, Snow Hill.
- **Rutherford EMC**, Forest City—Re-elected were Harold R. Oates of Rt. 1, Gastonia; J. T. Wyant of Rt. 1, Vale; David W. McGimsey of Rt. 7, Morganton and Roy D. Wilkins of Rt. 2, Columbus.
- **Tri-County EMC, Dudley**—Re-elected were C. C. Ivey Jr. of Rt. 2, Mount Olive, Foster Kermit Holland of Rt. 2, Mount Olive; James N. Price of Rt. 5, Mount Olive and Roosevelt Taylor of Rt. 2, LaGrange.

TV Series Focuses On Saving Energy

"Saving Energy," a 13-part series, is currently being broadcast by the network of the University of North Carolina Center for Public Broadcasting.

The half-hour series includes six programs that were broadcast by the network last winter, plus seven new programs.

Mike Gray, television editor with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, hosts the series, which was produced by the N.C. Center for Public Broadcasting.

The series began its schedule Dec. 6 and will continue through the end of February. It's slated to air each Thursday at 7:30 p.m., with repeats set for the following Saturday at 5 p.m. Check local listings.

Tar Heel 4-H Members Win National Honors

Eighteen North Carolina 4-H members, including 13 from Wake County, won national honors during the National Junior Horticultural Association's 50th anniversary convention.

Grand national winners and their award programs were John Young of Rt. 3, Wake Forest and Marlette and Michelle Brock of Cary, open team division of the horticulture contest; Lane Therrell of Rt. 9, Charlotte, horticulture marketing demonstration; Rick Baker of Harrellsville, production and marketing project, fresh market division; Wesley Leigh Wise of Rt. 1, Knightdale, Young America garden record book for ages 8 and younger; and Deedy Martinet of Rt. 5, Zebulon, Young America garden record book for ages 9 to 11.

National award winners were

Home Folks

Dr. Jane T. Carswell of Lenoir has been named Physician of the Year for 1984 by the American Academy of Family Physicians. . . . . The North Carolina Awards, the highest honors presented by the state, have been presented to **Maud Gatewood** of Yanceyville, painter and college teacher, for fine arts; **Dr. Robert L. Hill** of Durham, chairman of the Duke University Department of Biochemistry, for science; **Lee Smith** of Chapel Hill, a novelist and teacher, for literature; **George Watts Hill** of Chapel Hill, business and civic leader whose support helped develop Research Triangle Park, for public service; **Joseph Mitchell** of New York, a Fairmont native who is a veteran *New Yorker* writer, for literature (out-of-state) and actor **Andy Griffith** of Manteo and Hollywood, for fine arts (out-of-state) . . . . . **Dr. Morris Schaefer**, a professor of health policy and administration at UNC-CH, has received the 1984 Award for Excellence in Health Administration from the American Public Health Association. The association also cited **Dr. C. Arden Miller**, professor and chairman of maternal and child health at UNCH-CH, for his "unusual achievement in the field of maternal and child health." He received the association's Martha May Eliot Award.

Jocelyn Carter of Raleigh, landscaping demonstration; Alice Cagle of Rt. 1, Star, production demonstration; Alisa Robinson of Elizabeth City and Katherine Renfrow of Rt. 1, Lucama, use demonstration and Matthew Gambrell of New Hill, Young America garden record book for ages 8 and younger.

Other national Young America record book winners, ages 9 to 11, were Grey Gambrell of New Hill; Jason Williams of Raleigh and Karen Engelke of Raleigh.

National winners for ages 12 to 14 in Young America garden record books were Cory Parkhurst and Kelli MaDora Thomas, both of Rt. 4, Apex and Charles Haigh of Raleigh.

Carter was named North Carolina's youth coordinator for the National Junior Horticultural Association.

Currituck County Woman Cited For Farm Work

Tillie C. Powell of Rt. 2, Shawboro, has been named North Carolina Woman in Agriculture.

The recognition took place at a luncheon kicking off Farm-City Week activities in November.

Winnie Wood of Camden, state chairperson of Farm-City Week, said the recognition helps to "highlight the contributions women are making to farming."

Mrs. Powell, the owner of a 900-acre farm in Currituck County, realized diversification was the key to survival for the family farm.

In addition to cropland, the family has 1,200 hogs and a 15-acre pick-your-own strawberry and produce operation.

Mrs. Powell is actively involved in the farming operation with her husband Leon and son William.

Currently, Mrs. Powell serves with the State Farm Bureau Advisory Committee, the North Carolina Pork Producers, the North Carolina and Virginia Roadside Market Associations, and is chairman of the Currituck County Board of Adjustments.

District Winners were: Northeastern—Margarette S. Laughinghouse of Pantego; Southeastern—Mary W. Earp of Rt. 1, Winnabow; North Central—Kay W. Fisher of Rt. 2, Whitakers; Northwestern—Margaret McGrady of Rt. 1, Piney Creek; Southwestern—Edith L. Lutz of Rt. 3, Lawndale; Western—Lucy Crowell of Rt. 3, Asheville.

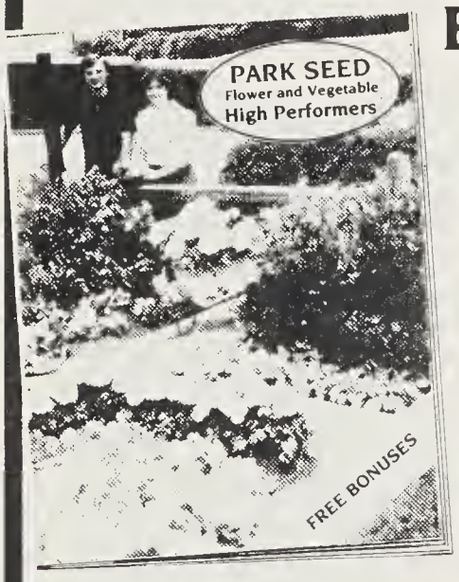
District runners-up were: Northeastern—Sadie M. Whitley of Rt. 1, Como; Southeastern—Gay Sullivan of Rt. 2, Mount Olive; North Central—Elizabeth T. Walters of Rt. 1, Efland; Northwestern—Mary Ruth Sheets of Rt. 6, Lexington; Southwestern—Sara M. Atkins of Rt. 2, Troy; Western—Dianne R. Davis of Rt. 2, Tryon.

Continued on page 8

Cover: "The Christmas Tree" By Frank Alleva

Our cover features a reproduction of an original oil painting by Frank Alleva of Greensboro, an artist whose work has been featured in exhibits throughout the Piedmont region.

Titled "The Christmas Tree," the painting was commissioned by Western Electric's Guilford Center for use on the cover of its employee publication, *WECO Wail*, in 1982.



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Chicken Cooking Contest Carries $20,000 In Prizes

The National Broiler Council is conducting a nationwide search for the best chicken recipe in the country, backing it with awards totaling $20,000 for the top five entries.

Entries must be mailed by Dec. 31 to qualify for the contest, which will hold its national cook-off at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville on May 16, 1985.

To enter, write your favorite broiler-fryer chicken recipe for 4-8 servings on a piece of paper and mail to: Chicken Contest, Box 28158 Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20005. Recipes need not be original. Include your name, address and telephone number on the first page of each entry.

If you're interested in the recipes that won honors in the 1984 contest, you can obtain those recipes by sending $1.50 for postage and handling to : Chicken Cookbook c/o N.C. Poultry Federation, Box 2431, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.

Revised Book Examines Tar Heel Silversmiths

North Carolina readers have proven to be so interested in old silver that the Historical Publications Section of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources has just published a second revised edition of a book on the subject.

The book, *Silversmiths of North Carolina, 1696-1860*, by Mary Reynolds Peacock, features twice the number of pages and three times the number of photos contained in the extremely popular 1973 editon.

That volume was a revised version of George Barton Cutten's original 1948 work on Tar Heel silversmiths.

The new edition covers the decade 1850 to 1860, a period not covered in earlier editions.

The original work stemmed from the personal interest that Dr. Cutten, president of Colgate University, developed in silver. When he retired in 1942, he had collected many examples of old silver and published several articles and a book on the subject.

Mrs. Peacock, who is now retired, was an editor with the Historical Publications Section in 1973 when she revised and expanded Dr. Cutten's 1948 study. Since then, she has collected even more information on the subject which is included in the new volume.

The book is available at $12 for the hardbound edition and $8 for the paperbound edition. For mail orders, add $1 for postage and handling. Orders should be mailed to the Historical Publications Section, Department of Cultural Resources, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Public TV Slates New Quilting Series

Georgia Bonesteel, the Hendersonville quilting expert who has hosted two previous public television series on lap quilting, will host a third edition of the series that premieres Jan. 5.

In the 13-week series, Mrs. Bonesteel takes viewers step-by-step through drafting, quilt design, quilt construction and small-item construction in the forms of wall hangings, tote bags and other fabric creations.

The series, a production of the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television, will be aired by Public Broadcasting Service stations across the nation.

When the 1982 edition of the series was carried by PBS stations, it proved to be highly popular, ranking as one of the service's top 25 programs. A full-color hardbound book on lap quilting was published as a companion to the series.

Check local TV listings for the broadcast dates and times for the new series of "Lap Quilting with Georgia Bonesteel."

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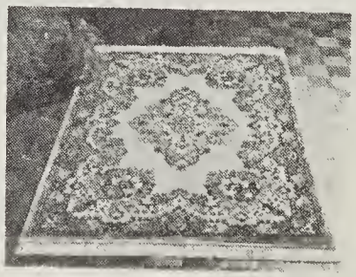

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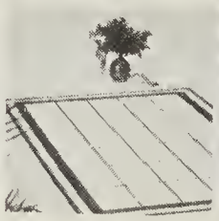

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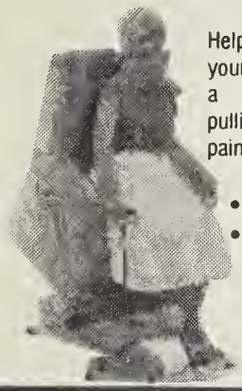

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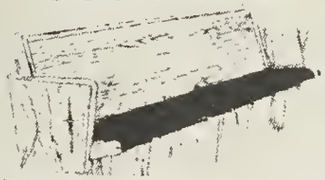

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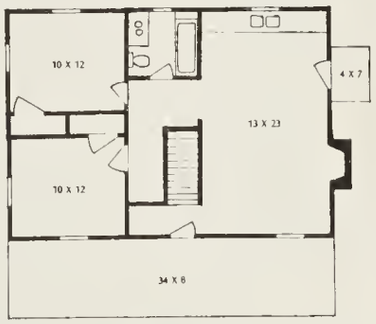

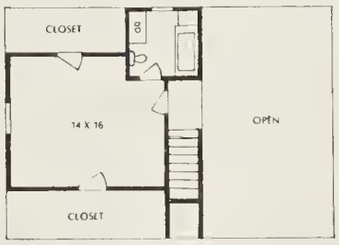

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Statewide EMC Women's Group Elects New Officers

A Pitt County woman has been elected chairwoman of the Women's Committee of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

She is Linda Whitehurst of Rt. 5, Greenville, who is a member of the Women's Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation, Tarboro.

Mrs. Whitehurst had served two terms as vice chairwoman of the statewide women's organization.

The organization is composed of representatives of the EMC women's committees, which serve as a liaison between the local co-ops and their consumer-members in the areas of education and public relations.

Undine Barnhill of Rt. 1, Enfield, a member of the Women's Committee of Halifax EMC, Enfield, was elected to serve as vice chairwoman for the coming year.

Meanwhile, Una Edwards of Rt. 2, Sparta, a member of the Member Advisory Committee of Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, was elected to represent North Carolina on the board of the National Rural Electric Women's Association.

The national group provides a communications link between rural electric women and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and assists the Washington-based organization in planning programs affecting rural women.

New Manager Appointed At Pitt and Greene EMC

A native of Greene County has been named manager of Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation, Farmville.

He is Mark A. Suggs, who had served as interim manager of the cooperative since July. Suggs succeeds Joe Patterson, who resigned after serving as manager since 1977.

The new manager joined the EMC in August, 1983, as staff assistant and assistant manager.

He was director of utilities for the Town of Ayden for three years before joining Pitt and Greene EMC.

A graduate of Greene Central High School, he majored in architecture at Pitt Community College.

He has also worked with the Greenville Utilities Commission's Electrical Engineering Department.

He is married to the former Lura Murphrey of Pitt County.

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Everyone, including your in-laws, is eagerly awaiting the Christmas feast you have prepared. You want everything to be perfect, but trying to turn out a dozen delicious dishes has worn you to a frazzle.

If this is the way you think you will feel Christmas day, "remember, you are supposed to be having a good time, too," says Dr. Nadine Tope, extension specialist-in-charge of foods and nutrition at North Carolina State University.

Keep the menu simple. "This will give you more time to spend with your guests and usually gives you foods that are lower in cost and calories," Dr. Tope points out.

And if something does go wrong, relax. "The world won't come to an end if your pumpkin pie crust is burned," says the extension specialist.

Here are some ways to remedy common problems:

- The turkey is still frozen.

Is it completely frozen? The quickest way to thaw the bird is in cold—not hot—water. Make sure it is in a water-tight wrapping and then place it in cold water. Change the water every half hour. A 12-pound turkey will be ready to cook in six hours; a 20 pound bird will take eight hours.

Do you have access to a microwave oven? Defrost the turkey in it. If you don't own a microwave, maybe you can use a neighbor's or a relative's oven.

If you are using a commercially stuffed and frozen turkey, check the label. Chances are it is supposed to be placed in the oven frozen.

- The commercially stuffed and frozen turkey has been defrosted.

Sorry, but it isn't safe to eat. Salmonella bacteria is often associated with poultry and poultry products, and an estimated 2½ million cases occur each year.

A number of local restaurants will be serving the traditional Christmas meal. Take the family out, and serve coffee and dessert at home.

- The turkey isn't done, but everything else is.

Slice the bird and finish cooking it in the microwave.

- The turkey is dry.

Make a little extra gray.

- The turkey meat shreds as it is sliced.

Did you let it set for five to 10 minutes before carving? If you didn't, carve the minimum amount now. When it comes time for seconds, the meat will be ready.

Is the knife sharp? If not, get another one.

- The green beans are too salty.

Peel a large Irish potato, and put it in with the beans. The potato will absorb some of the saltiness. Some people drain of the liquid, add more and try to cook the salt out, but this washes nutrients down the drain.

- The congealed salad falls apart as you take it from the mold.

If the damage is minor, a garnish may cover it. If this isn't possible, slice it up and serve it on a bed of greens with garnish.

- The cake cracks and breaks into pieces as you remove it from the pan.

A layer of frosting will hide many flaws. Or serve it sliced with ice cream and topping.

- The gravy is lumpy.

Mash it through a colander or strain it. One way to avoid lumpy gravy is to take your time. If the grease is too hot, it may not be possible to smooth the flour out.

- The creamed potatoes are lumpy, no matter how long they are beaten.

Did you use baking potatoes? Some varieties of potatoes are better suited for whipping. Red-skinned potatoes cream well, as do most cooking potatoes. Baking potatoes have a texture which cannot be creamed.

- The biscuits are burned.

Throw them out and begin again. A package of refrigerated biscuits or biscuit mix will come in handy.

Check your oven rack. Make sure it wasn't too close to the heating element to make room for the bird, or your second batch of biscuits will be burned, too.

- Your rolled cookies will not roll out.

Form them into balls and cook them that way. Decorate with icing, if desired.

- The crust of the pumpkin pie is burned.

Break off the edges and pipe whipped topping in its place.

The CHRISTMAS HERITAGE of Old Salem

Old Salem is a community where the past and present live comfortably together. Now surrounded by the modern city of Winston-Salem, this historic area is the site on which in 1776 a group of Moravians founded a congregation town . . . . . The founding Moravians and those that followed gave a distinctive flavor to their town . . . . . And they left a legacy of sturdy buildings and rich traditions, especially those associated with Christmas, which are still enjoyed today.

That introduction by Flora Ann L. Bynum sets the tone for *The Christmas Heritage of Old Salem*, a book recalling the various Moravian Yuletide traditions which are kept alive through the annual "Salem Christmas" celebration.

Selected photos from the book are reproduced here to convey the spirit of this holiday celebration. They were shot by Howard Walker.

The book is available at bookshops but may be ordered directly from the publisher: Williamsburg Publishing Co., P.O. Box 1865, Williamsburg, Va. 23185. Prices are $9.95 for softcover; $14.95 for hardbound. Add $1.50 for postage and handling for one book; $2 for two.

Left: Moravian Christmas cakes, a thin ginger cookie, are Old Salem's true heritage Christmas food. They are cut in many shapes with tin cookie cutters. Above: In Salem Tavern, special foods are prepared in celebration of the season and in tune with the more festive nature of Christmas outside Salem. The tavern was owned and operated by the church for travelers, "outsiders."

young girl in Moravian costume holds a lovefeast candle. ghted tapers were first recorded at a Christmas Eve watch rvice for children in Germany in 1747.

Morning Star

Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st how dark earth's night!
Jesus mine, In me shine;
In me shine, Jesus mine;
Fill my heart with light divine.

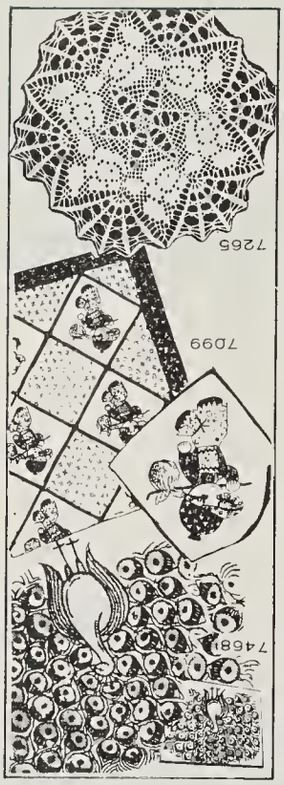
Morning Star, Thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light;
Morning Star, Thy glory bright
Far excels the sun's clear light;
Jesus be, Constantly,
Constantly, Jesus be
More than thousand suns to me.

Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far,
Thy glad beams, Thou Morning Star,
Cheer the nations near and far,
Thee we own, Lord alone,
Lord alone, Thee we own,
Man's great Savior, God's dear Son.

Morning Star, my soul's true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Morning Star, my soul's true Light,
Tarry not, dispel my night;
Jesus mine, In me shine,
In me shine, Jesus mine,
Fill my heart with light divine.

Left: Thousands of handmade beeswax candles trimmed with a red ruff are made annually for the Christmas lovefeasts. Above: Illuminations, transparent pictures lighted from behind by a candle, were often used to illustrate the Christmas story. This illumination was painted by Gustavus Grunewald, a European-trained Moravian artist, in Pennsylvania about 1830.

PINS · N · NEEDLES



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COUNTRY KITCHEN

Want To Share Your Recipes?

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We pay $5 for published recipes and present each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards with the winning recipe printed on them.

Party Ham Rolls

Submitted by Christine York of Mocksville

1 stick butter
1 tsp. minced onion flakes
1½ T. mustard
1 T. poppy seeds
1 tsp. Worchestershire Sauce
2 pkgs. Party Rolls
8 oz. boiled ham
6 oz. swiss cheese

Prepare sauce with the first five ingredients. Slice open each package of rolls all at once. Spread sauce over rolls. Place a slice of ham and a slice of swiss cheese on each. Close. Wrap tightly with foil and refrigerate overnight. Preheat oven to 325 degrees and bake 15-20 minutes, or until cheese has melted.

DO YOUR OWN THING

Reminiscing With Ribbon

Ribbon has been used through the centuries to enhance everything from ladies hats to flower baskets. This 16-page full-color guidebook shows you how to decorate dozens of items with silk, satin, woven or polyester ribbons.

Use your sewing machine to make a patchwork ribbon quilt or be-ribboned vest. The sewing techniques explained in the step-by-step instructions will also help you create a ribbon holiday basket and lovely Christmas ornaments using thread, scissors and glue.

To obtain REMINISCING WITH RIBBON, #SP45, send $4.25, including first class postage and handling.

One of the nicest ways to show off your ribbon work is to combine it with dried flowers and greenery! This 16-page instruction book shows you step-by-step the techniques for drying flowers using common household products.

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Three large shelves on top and two smaller shelves on the bottom, plus a convenient drawer for soaps and other accessories, make this an efficient and attractive piece of furniture.

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Our easy-to-follow plan offers step-by-step directions and photos, exploded diagrams, a shopping list and a cutting schedule.

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Also available for the ambitious home-remodeler who wants to completely re-do the bathroom is a 160-page idea book entitled DESIGN, REMODEL AND BUILD YOUR BATHROOM, #FM1, $7.95.

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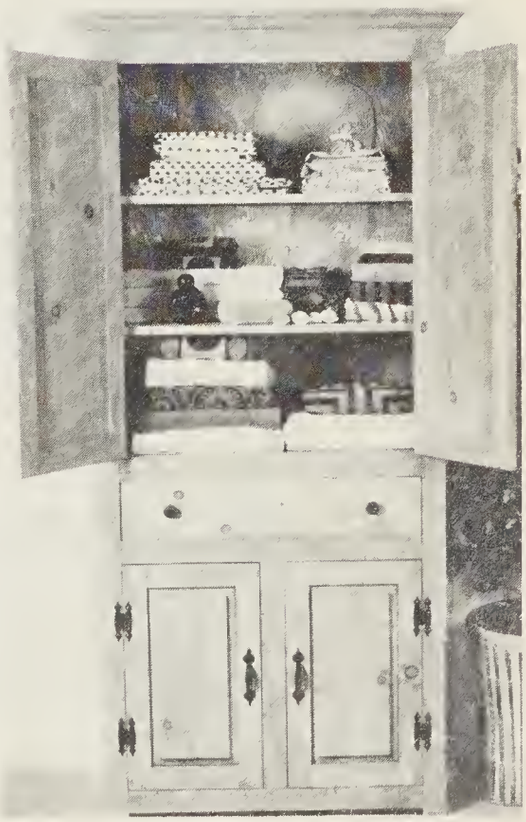

WASHINGTON SCENE

Thorny Problems Need Attention As President Prepares For New Term

As Ronald Reagan starts his second term in the White House next month, following his tidal wave sweep of the 1984 election, he certainly carries the best wishes of the American people.

But though the voters in 49 of the 50 states gave him a majority of their ballots, he still doesn't have the working majority that he needs in the Congress.

His party lost a net of two seats in the U.S. Senate, and while the GOP gained 14 seats in the House of Representatives, the Democrats retained a healthy majority there.

North Carolina was his best state in the congressional elections, as Jesse Helms turned back the challenge of Democratic Gov. Jim Hunt and Republicans picked up three seats in the House, leaving the Democrats only a six-to-five margin, as opposed the present nine-to-two line up.

Mandate or no, the President faces some thorny problems as he begins another four years in the job. He is, for the record, the first two-term president since Dwight Eisenhower.

Immediately after the election, Reagan, in response to a question, said that his number one goal during a second term would be "peace in the world."

The President, who seems to have adopted a more conciliatory position toward the Soviet Union and the Communist nations, would undoubtedly like to devote more time to foreign affairs and try to go down in history as a leader who brought stability to a nuclear world, but there are domestic problems that will require much of his time.

The biggest problem, of course, is the record deficits in the federal budget which economists agree will lead to a serious national crisis during the next four years unless they are controlled.

The President's Democratic opponent, Walter Mondale, told voters that if he were elected he would raise taxes to bring the deficit down.

Reagan seized on Mondale's statement and said he wouldn't try to balance the budget or lower the deficit by raising taxes, but by cutting spending.

However, when pressed during the campaign, he promised not to cut spending for Social Security and since the election he has ruled out any extensive cuts in military outlays.

That leaves few meaningful places to cut, Democrats in Congress have pointed out, and without control of the House, Reagan will have trouble cutting such items as food stamps, welfare or nutritional programs.

Eventually, even Republicans agree, more taxes are going to have to come from somewhere and knowledgeable people on Capitol Hill say the likeliest proposals are some sort of "flat tax," which would tax everyone at the same rate with fewer exemptions, or a national sales tax.

Both of these plans face stiff resistance because they would fall just as heavily on the poor as on the wealthy, but they may be attractive to the Reagan White House.

Another problem facing the Reagan second term is the heavy influx of imported products that are flooding the country, boosting the nation's unemployment.

Each year, the difference in the amount of goods we sell overseas and the foreign products that are sold here have been increasing,

Rural Electric Program Loses A Friend

The nation's rural electric program lost a good friend in the U.S. Senate with the defeat of Sen. Walter Huddleston (D) of Kentucky last month.

Huddleston, who had served two six-year terms in the Senate, introduced a bill in the last session of Congress to protect the co-ops' loan program. The legislation, opposed by the Reagan administration, was killed by a parliamentary procedure just before the 98th Congress ended.

Huddleston had been one of the key leaders in the battle for the bill which would have almost certainly been approved if it had been debated and voted on by the full Senate.

Reports from Kentucky said that Huddleston was the victim of the heavy majority that President Reagan rolled up in the state. The winner was Mitch McConnell, a county judge in Jefferson County, who lives in Louisville.

Another strong supporter of the electric co-op had better success. Rep. Tom Harkins of Iowa won a seat in the Senate by defeating the incumbent, Roger Jepson.

Harkins led the fight in the House to curtail the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's authority to let utilities charge their wholesale customers for construction work-in-progress (CWIP) costs. This raises the cost of power for the co-ops and ultimately brings higher bills for their consumer-members. Harkins guided the bill to House approval, but it was also killed in the Senate without being brought to the floor.

The new Iowa senator can be expected to fight for the CWIP legislation as well as a version of the financing bill in the Senate, where both issues will undoubetdly surface again.

causing plants to close and workers to find themselves without jobs.

The textile industry, North Carolina's largest manufacturing enterprise, is a prime example of this. Each month now brings reports of established textile plants shutting their doors and workers going on unemployment rolls.

Reagan, a long-time disciple of "free trade," certainly will have to face this problem, starting now and continuing through his second term.

Meanwhile, textile executives who have long advocated free enterprise, less government control and non-union shops, are yelling for some sort of relief from the government, such as limits on the amount of foreign textile products that come into the country.

Given his long standing belief in a free market system, it would surprise most Washington politicians if Reagan backed quotas on imported textiles or anything else.

A third major problem is the environment.

People are finding toxic waste dumps where refuse has been piled to cause a serious danger to public health.

Industrial emissions, most scientists say, have caused so much pollution in the atmosphere that the air is permeated by it.

"The President is at the height of his popularity now and he will be most effective in dealing with Congress in the coming year"

This serious problem, which has been on the back burner through the first Reagan term, is going to demand more attention during the rest of the decade.

Those are just some of the problems that the administration will be confronted with as it starts its new four-year stint.

Whatever Reagan plans, and he revealed little of his agenda during the campaign, will need to be accomplished during 1985.

The President is at the height of his popularity now, riding the wave of his record majority at the polls, and he will be most effective in dealing with Congress in the coming year.

After that, he will be a lame duck who cannot run again, and the jockeying will start, first for the congressional elections of 1986 and the national contest in 1988.

Many observers are predicting a real fight within the Republican Party between the conservative group, best represented by North Carolina's Helms and the more moderate-liberal segment of Vice President Bush or Howard Baker, who left the Senate this year with an eye on making a presidential bid in '88.

Such an intra-party fight might endanger any program the President wants approved.

In any event, it promises to be an interesting four years.

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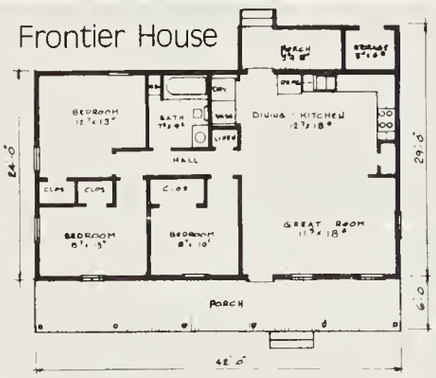

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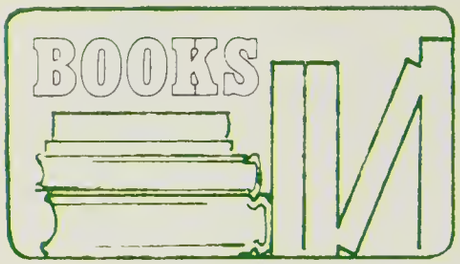

Cruising Guide To Coastal North Carolina by Claiborne S. Young. Publisher. John F. Blair, 272 pages. $17.95.

This attractive, large format (8 x 9 inch) paperbound book is the best one I've seen for people wanting to cruise the sounds, river and estuaries that line the coast of North Carolina.

Encyclopedic in its coverage, it provides elaborate details on the best places to go in power or sailboats, warns of hazards that exist in several locations, and even tells where you can refuel your boat with gasoline or diesel fuel and yourself with fresh seafood.

Claiborne Young is evidently an enthusiastic cruiser for he writes zestfully of places "where you can really cruise" but warns of the "chop" on Albemarle Sound.

The book's cruise takes us south. It starts with the Dismal Swamp and Virginia-North Carolina Cut (officially the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal) as two approaches to Albemarle Sound, and doesn't even get to Edenton until page 33.

Every navigable part of the Intracoastal Waterway is covered—complete with the "flashing daybeacons" that line it.

While the book has useful sketch maps, and many attractive photographs as illustrations, it is clear that you'll need navigational charts as well as this handy volume for many stretches.

As mentioned, the entire area is covered. Alligator River, Pamlico Sound and the distinct and separate Pamlico River, all the way to Calabash.

In addition to the guidance, fascinating little stories are injected. The ghost of a bride, known for her waving hands, is just a few pages before the savage tale of Blackbeard's death at the hands of the Royal Navy.

Virginia Dare's legend is included, together with much historical information on coastal locations.

In this book, you read about places you've been, driving down to the beach, but from the viewpoint of the pleasure boat skipper—not the landlubber. Even in the port city of Wilmington there is only one dock for pleasure craft—the one at the Hilton Hotel, which has plenty of depth but can dock only about three boats at a time.

Similarly, at the historic town of Bath, the "new, quite lovely inn, Bath Guest House, offers dockage for its patrons only."

This is not a book for anyone who wants to sail through one of our many inlets to the open sea. But it does tell you how far up some of the streams you can sail—whether you draw eight feet or only three and a half.

This is a good book for its special audience.

—*Frank Jeter Jr.*

Guide To The Uwharrie Trail by G. Nicholas Hancock. Happy Feat Publishing Co. 77 pages. $5.00.

North Carolina is famous for its recreational attractions, from the seacoast in the east to the mountains in the west. But as this neat little booklet reminds us, the Piedmont region also offers mountain wonders.

In fact, there seems no doubt that the Uwharrie Mountains are our oldest mountains of all. And they also offer a lot of North Carolinians some excellent recreation not far from where most of us live. If you draw a triangle with Greensboro, Charlotte and Fayetteville as its points, the Uwharries lie right in the middle.

This booklet is not for reading. It's a guide (as the title says) for people who want to backpack along the Uwharrie Trail. The trail runs from near Troy in Montgomery County to near Asheboro in Randolph, the location of our state zoo.

The mountains average only about 900 feet elevation, so they are not exactly comparable with Mt. Mitchell or other western peaks, but they do have their natural beauty, plenty of good water and a trail to hike.

In addition, in cold weather, they're not nearly as icy as the big mountains.

The booklet outlines hikes in both directions, with detailed data on what you'll see and where to turn. It lists a baker's dozen of campsites and lots of other useful information. It is illustrated both with maps and with good drawings of shrubs and flowers. And yes, mountain laurel does grow in the Uwharries.

You can order a copy of this guide from Nicholas Hancock at Happy Feat Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2821, Asheboro, N.C. 27203. Enclose $5 plus 50 cents for postage.

—*Frank Jeter Jr.*

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Keep Your Pets Warm As Temperatures Drop

During cold weather, pets—just like people—require extra protection to stay warm.

Dr. Stephen W. Crane, professor and head of companion animal and special species medicine at North Carolina State University's School of Veterinary Medicine, says even though a dog or cat may appear to have a warm coat of fur, not all pets can withstand extremely cold weather.

Crane explained that a pet accustomed to being outdoors can "acclimatize" or adjust to extreme temperatures, but indoor/outdoor pets do not adapt to cold weather and should be kept indoors during extremely cold temperatures.

"Outdoor cats will usually take care of themselves when provided with a little protection such as a box to block the wind and a blanket to insulate body heat, but dogs have widely varying hair coats and depending on the breed, they may or may not be able to tolerate the cold," he said.

Crane pointed out that many dog breeds such as Siberian huskies, German shepherds and Samoyeds have a wooly undercoat beneath the surface layer of hair for added protection against the cold. Some dogs, however, such as poodles and terriers, even though long-haired, lack this wooly undercoat.

Also, he said, short-haired breeds such as dobermans and dachshunds are very susceptible to wind chill.

Crane outlined several measures to protect an outdoor dog from exposure to severe cold.

The most important measure is a doghouse with a false bottom that leaves an insulating airspace between the bottom of the house and the frozen ground. Owners should make sure the entrance to the doghouse is leeward to the wind, and, if possible, should place the doghouse near a larger structure for added protection.

Also, warm bedding made from shredded newspapers, an old blanket or wood shavings will provide added insulation.

Owners should take note of special feeding needs animals may have during cold weather, Crane said.

"Pets may require extra feedings during cold weather. If they stay outside, they will be burning extra calories and will need to replenish them," he said.

Owners also should make sure that there is a supply of fresh water and that it does not freeze over.

Ice and snow can present an unusual health hazard for pets, Crane said. If salt is sprinkled on the ground, animals who walk on it may develop foot irritations such as cracked toenails and footpads.

"The best treatment for that problem is to bring the animal in and wash his feet once or twice a day, and then apply petroleum jelly. Just be sure not to send the animal back outside with damp feet," Crane said.

If owners decide to bring a pet inside in cold weather, they should remember that the animal may develop a little cabin fever from being cooped up inside just as people do.

"The animal still needs stimulation and changes in his environment," Crane said. "He will need exercise. Try to exercise him on a leash if you have to keep him inside."

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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

The sun, that brief December day,
Rose cheerless over hills of gray,
And, darkly circled, gave at noon
A sadder light than waning moon.
—*J. G. Whittier, 1866*

December duties to your plants are few. But, there are some do's and don'ts.

Pamper your poinsettia and Christmas cactus. Be thoughtful of your garden's friends, the birds. On a cold December evening, check gardening catalogs and make your plant and seed list.

Check Mulches

The worst of winter is yet to come; check your shrubs to see that mulches are still holding up. It's advisable to replenish mulch to a depth of four inches if loose materials, such as pine straw, are used.

Mulches help to conserve moisture within the root zone of plants. This is especially important for plants that suffer from water loss through wind-blown foliage. Drying winter winds are one of the worst enemies of plants. If your area experiences a long period of no rainfall, it's important to water plants. Choose a time when soil is not frozen and let water soak soil around plants.

If soil is frozen, the root system cannot function to take up moisture. The result may be a wilted, scorched, or dead plant.

Add Nutrients To Garden

Before soil freezes, it will benefit next year's garden if organic matter is added at this time. Work compost, peat and broadleaves into the soil. Spade or rototill so organic matter is several inches below soil line.

Prune Maples

If you have maple trees that have overgrown their allotted landscape space, now's a good time to prune them to allow more light to penetrate beneath their branches. Pruning while the "sap is low" will preserve growing energy for next spring.

Cutting Holly for Decorations

When cutting holly for use indoors, remember that some hollies produce berries only on previous years' wood. If pruned too heavily, you'll reduce next year's berry crop. The holly varieties that need close attention when pruning are the American holly and all Chinese holly varieties such as the popular Burfordi.

All cut greenery should be soaked in water for at least six hours; this helps prolong the life. After greenery drips dry, dip it in liquid Future floor wax. This "seals" moisture within, delaying the drying-out process.

Plant Pines

Pine trees are of special interest in winter and can be planted now. An eventual bonus is a supply of pine straw, an excellent mulch. And, if you have a yen for azaleas but have a sunny yard, someday you may want to consider massing drifts of azaleas beneath tall pines.

Pines are difficult to transplant as large trees, but young ones purchased as container-grown plants will grow rapidly if given adequate water and fertilizer. Choose from many different kinds of pines—longleaf, slash, loblolly, shortleaf, and white—depending on which grow best in your locality.

If you attempt to move pines from nearby wooded areas, select small seedlings for the best results. Dig them carefully so no damage is done to the taproot.

Don't Cultivate All Ornamental Plants

Most neat planting beds call for cultivation. However, hoeing around certain ornamental plants is detrimental to their growth. Shallow-rooted plants such as azaleas, camellias, dogwoods, redbuds and rhododendrons suffer if their near-the-surface roots are cut. Their ability to take up nutrient-containing moisture from the soil is reduced in proportion to the extent of root damage.

Watering plants just before freezing weather is forecast is especially important for broadleaf evergreens. Regardless of weather conditions, these plants continue to lose moisture through their leaves as a result of sun and winds.

Selecting Your Gift Poinsettia

When selecting a poinsettia, consider the maturity of the plant. Look for yellow pollen on the true flowers which are at the base of the colorful bracts (leaves). If the flowers are green or red-tipped and fresh looking, the bloom will "hold" longer than if pollen is covering the cluster of small flowers. Most plants are offered for sale when pollen is just showing around the edges of the flowers.

The grower has raised the plant at temperatures of 60 to 70 degrees F. with a high relative humidity and the maximum sunshine available in the greenhouse. In the home, these conditions should be copied insofar as possible. The plant should be in a sunny location. Avoid temperature fluctuations and drafts. The temperature in a home will probably be somewhat higher than that at which the poinsettia was grown and life of the bloom will be slightly shorter as a result.

If possible, the plant should be moved to a cooler room at night. It should not touch a cold window or be near an air register or radiator and the plant should not be placed near an outside door, where sudden blasts of cold can cause damage.

Ensure Flowering of Christmas Cactus

An old favorite houseplant still enjoying popularity in many homes is the Christmas cactus. This somewhat tempermental plant can suffer from being neglected or overcultivated.

If your Christmas cactus has failed to set buds or if it drops its flowerbuds soon after they are formed, one of the following probably is the cause:

Overwatering—For most of the year, Christmas cactus needs little moisture. Until flowerbuds about the size of a pinhead appear, the soil should feel almost dry several inches beneath the surface. After flowerbuds begin to form, gradually increase amount of water and the frequency of watering to keep soil fairly moist throughout the container. Use water at room temperature.

Overwatering encourages decay. Slight overwatering will induce vigorous foliage growth. When too much of the plant's strength is used to produce foliage, there's usually a sacrifice in blooms. After the plant completes its flowering, gradually reduce watering but don't let soil dry out.

Insufficient watering—When soil is too dry, the plant becomes droopy, flabby and limp. Leaflike stem sections lose their normal form and texture.

Abrupt changes in temperature or cold drafts—This will cause flowerbuds to drop. If plant is near a window, slip cardboard between it and the glass on cold nights as a barrier to chilling air.

Escaping gas—The faintest trace of escaping gas can cause nonflowering.

Lack of fertilizer—Insufficient food after flowerbuds form causes yellowish foliage. Christmas cactus should be fed liquid houseplant food every two weeks. (Dilute according to instructions on container.) Begin feeding when flowerbuds first form; cease when blooms fade, usually in mid-January.

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A New Perspective On Frantic Yule Pace

If you're tongue is hanging out as you breathlessly scurry about with the final preparations for the holidays, take a moment to read the piece below. It might give you a new perspective on your frantic Yuletide pace.

The piece was written by Carol C. Faulkenberry of Crumpler, who is a regular columnist for the *Jefferson Times* in Ashe County and has written for the devotional publication *The Upper Room*. She's a member of the Jefferson United Methodist Church, where she teaches Sunday School and often delivers the Sunday morning children's sermon.

Mrs. Faulkenberry and her husband are consumer-members of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir.

Happy Birthday, Lord

Lord, we have a custom here on earth. When someone celebrates a birthday, we honor him with gifts and perhaps a party or a special meal.

Your birthday is approaching and I'd like to honor You. You have told me that I can give to You by giving to "the least" of Your brethren.

So . . . .

I've cleaned out the children's toy chest to make room for all the loot they'll get Christmas morning. And I've set aside that perfectly good doll—the one with only one missing eye—for the needy children's Christmas party.

I've baked five cakes and a lot of cookies and made a batch of fudge. And I've given two cans of pinto beans to the Sharing Center.

I've spent $20 on postage for Christmas cards. And I've given $1 to the offering for foreign missions. I do want to help spread the gospel.

I'm also making a new dress for the Christmas party. No, I haven't had time yet to visit that shut-in down the street. But I will send her a box of fudge.

Happy Birthday, Lord! Isn't the tree dazzling? Isn't the music lovely?

Lord, Lord, is something wrong? I seem to hear You weeping.

—©1984 *Carol Faulkenberry*

A "Want List" Santa Could Never Handle

Did you make a Christmas "want list" this year?

I never make one except under pressure from members of my family, who bear the burden of selecting both Christmas and birthday presents for me during December.

Making a list like this has always been an awkward task for me because I have trouble thinking in terms of familiar items—all within a reasonable price range—that are generally available at most retail outlets.

It would be a lot easier if the list could be disengaged from the world of commerce, although even Santa Claus might be stumped by "wants" of that sort.

With this approach, I could knock out several items right off the bat—but they'd all fall under the heading of "more time."

I'd certainly enjoy more time . . . for family, friends, entertaining, travel, reading, movies, music, sports (spectator-style).

I'd also get great satisfaction from having more time to spend on clean-up and fix-up projects at home and on the "back burner" jobs I never get to at the office.

I'd never actually considered putting desires of this sort in list form until I read a piece in *Blair and Ketchum's Country Journal* last spring about a survey the magazine had done to find out more about its readers.

The questionnaires they used asked the readers to send in their lists of top 10 "wants."

Here's what the respondents said they wanted most, in order of preference:

1. Good health
2. A new car
3. More money
4. A house
5. World peace
6. A chance to travel
7. More time
8. A tractor
9. A chunk of land
10. To retire

The list presented quite a contrast to "The Ten Great Wants" the survey questionnaires had mentioned as a point of reference. They're the prime objects of desire in the People's Republic of China: a bicycle, a sewing machine, a refrigerator, a clothes washer, a TV set, an electric fan, a digital watch with display unit, a tape recorder, a camera and a pair of headphones.

All the "Great Wants" are physical items, while the *Country Journal* readers' lists had only three physical objects, including the piece of land. The second 10 included only two more: pickup trucks and greenhouses.

Making a list like this can be an interesting exercise that reveals a lot about your basic values. And it can be prepared in any season.

If you choose to make one just before Christmas, you don't have to be the least bit concerned that Aunt Emma will never find Item No. 4 in the Sears catalog.

In addition, making this kind of list—even "checking it twice"—isn't likely to set you up for a disappointment on Christmas Day when the shiny packages under your tree contain nothing from the list.

Finally, a list of this sort could turn out to be a valuable yardstick for measuring those shopping list "wants" in terms of your overall values.

—*Owen Bishop*

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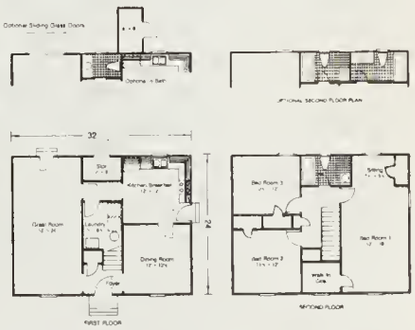

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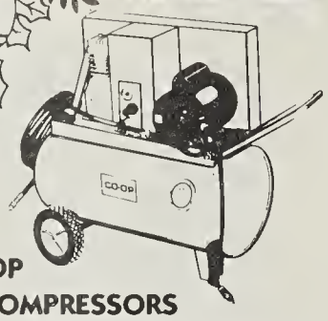

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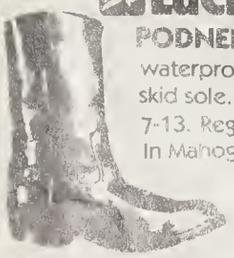

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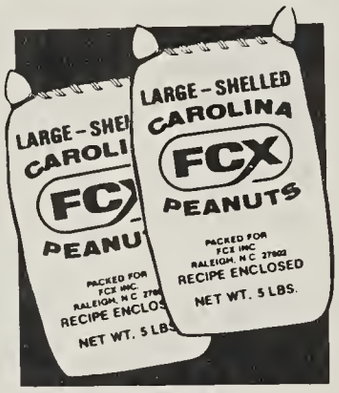

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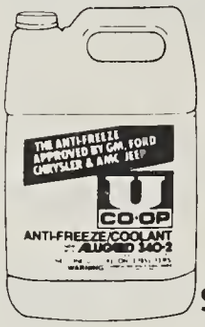

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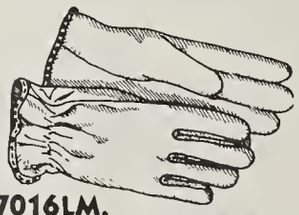

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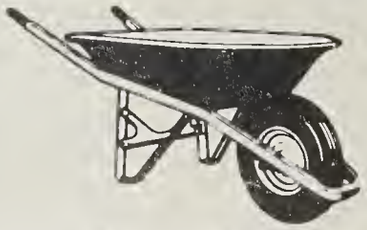

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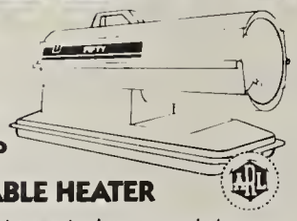

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